

# When Stars Are Scattered

Written by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed  
Illustrated by Victoria Jamieson

Dial Books  
978-0-525-55390-8 | Trade Paperback | 264 pages | \$12.99



## LESSON FOCUS

Non-fiction verification

## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

*When Stars Are Scattered* is a memoir told through the memories of Omar Mohamed, one of the authors. Students will compare the information presented about life in the refugee camp, Dadaab, in chapters 1-4 of the graphic novel to the news article “The Chosen,” published in *The Washington Post*, August 25, 2017.

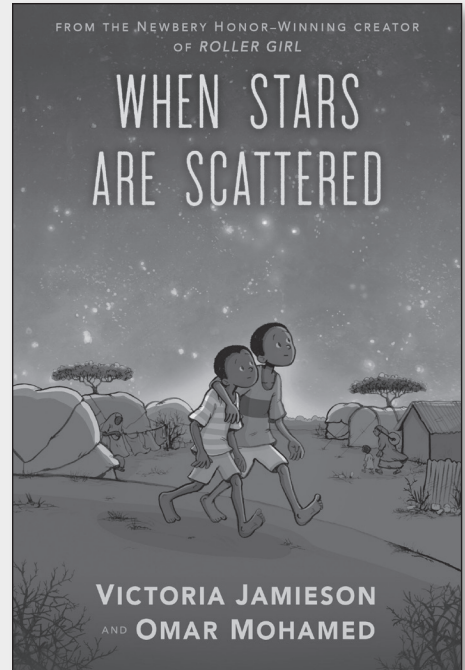
## LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will compare central ideas from 2 nonfiction sources.
2. Students will provide evidence from both sources tied to the central ideas.
3. Students will determine the importance of these central ideas for the reader.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *When Stars Are Scattered*
2. “The Chosen” by Kevin Sieff: <http://tiny.cc/jdrjsz>
3. Central Idea Comparison Chart: <http://tiny.cc/ogrjsz>

## Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



## SUMMARY

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp. When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of daily life in a refugee camp.

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

- Step 1:** Introduce the graphic novel, *When Stars Are Scattered*, with a summary.
  - Provide information about Dadaab Refugee Camp.
  - Provide information about the location in Africa of Kenya and Somalia.
  - Provide information about memoirs.
- Step 2:** Read chapters 1-4 of *When Stars Are Scattered*.
- Step 3:** Fill in details from the graphic novel in the Central Idea Comparison Chart.
- Step 4:** Read “The Chosen” article from *The Washington Post*.
- Step 5:** Fill in details from the news article into the Central Idea Comparison Chart.
- Step 6:** Revisit the “Central Idea” details and infer why both nonfiction texts included this information.

**CENTRAL IDEA TOPICS:**

- Number of refugees in camp
- Food
- Education in camp
- Hut | tent in camp
- Water
- Opportunities for women
- Dress of refugees
- Languages
- Opportunities for life after camp

Central Idea	<i>When Stars Are Scattered</i>	“The Chosen”	Inference: Importance of Information
# of Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So many people it’s more like a city</li> <li>• Three separate camps within 1 HUGE camp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surged past 22 million over all the years it has been open</li> </ul>	

(If needed, please use an additional sheet of paper to respond)